

Alaska State Legislature
REPRESENTATIVE BRYCE EDGMON
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
House District 37



Adak
Akutan
Aleknagik
Anvik
Atka
Attu Station
Chignik
Chignik Lagoon
Chignik Lake
Clark's Point
Cold Bay
Dillingham
Egegik
Ekwok
False Pass
Flat
Grayling
Holy Cross
Igigig
Iliamna
Ivanof Bay
King Cove
King Salmon
Kokhanok
Koliganek
Lake Minchumina
Levelock
Lime Village
Manokotak
McGrath
Naknek
Nelson Lagoon
New Stuyahok
Newhalen
Nikolai
Nikolski
Nondalton
Pedro Bay
Perryville
Pilot Point
Pope-Vannoy
Port Alsworth
Port Heiden
Portage Creek
Red Devil
Sand Point
Shageluk
Sleetmute
South Naknek
St. George
St. Paul
Stony River
Taktotna
Togiak
Twin Hills
Ugashik
Unalaska

Water Docket, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Mail Code 28221T
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20460
Attention: Docket ID No. EPA-R10-OW-2017-0369

Scott Pruitt, Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Pruitt,

October 16, 2017

As the Alaska State House representative for many communities dependent on the Bristol Bay watershed for their livelihoods and way of life, I write to strongly oppose withdrawal of EPA's Proposed Determination through the Clean Water Act to safeguard Bristol Bay from the environmental damage that would result from mining of the Pebble deposit.

I closely monitored the years-long, scrupulous analysis of this issue undertaken by EPA. The agency's conclusion that large-scale mining would cause ruinous harm to Bristol Bay fish and wildlife habitat and, in turn, to dozens of communities in the region I represent, is irrefutable.

I have always commended EPA for its painstaking response to the appeals from thousands of watershed residents and other stakeholders to take action in this matter. For more than a decade, subsistence hunters and fishers, commercial fishers, and recreational users of the region have feared that the watershed's unparalleled renewable resources would be sacrificed for short-term exploitation.

During public meetings on this issue held in Dillingham on October 11th and in Iliamna on the following day, it was clear that recent statements from the Pebble Partnership have not altered overwhelming opposition to large-scale mining in the region. Something on the order of 280 people attended the meetings, and of the roughly 120 people who gave testimony, more than 85 percent opposed a withdrawal of the Proposed Determination. To

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my knowledge, not a single Pebble or Northern Dynasty Mineral executive attended either meeting. This does not reflect well on the Pebble Partnership's promises to better interact with the communities of the watershed.

I have long been grateful for the high level of transparency and outreach EPA brought to its work in Bristol Bay. In that light, I request that before you reach a decision on this matter, you personally meet with Bristol Bay regional leaders, including representatives from the Bristol Bay Native Association, the Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation, the Bristol Bay Native Corporation, and the United Tribes of Bristol Bay.

Given that you already granted Pebble Partnership CEO Tom Collier a meeting to address his interests with you face-to-face, representatives of entities with the wellbeing of the people of the watershed uppermost in mind should also be allowed the opportunity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bryce Edgmon". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Representative Bryce Edgmon
Alaska House District 37